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A

LETTER

TO THE

Gentlemen and Freeholders, &c.

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LETTER
TO THE
Gentlemen and Freeholders
OF THE
County of *Dorset*,

Concerning the next Election of Members of Parliament for the said County.

Opus libertatis est vivere, ut vult aliquis, quia servus non vivit ut vu.t.

Quid est Libertas? Potestas vivendi, ut velis. Quis igitur vivit, ut vult, nisi qui recte sequitur.

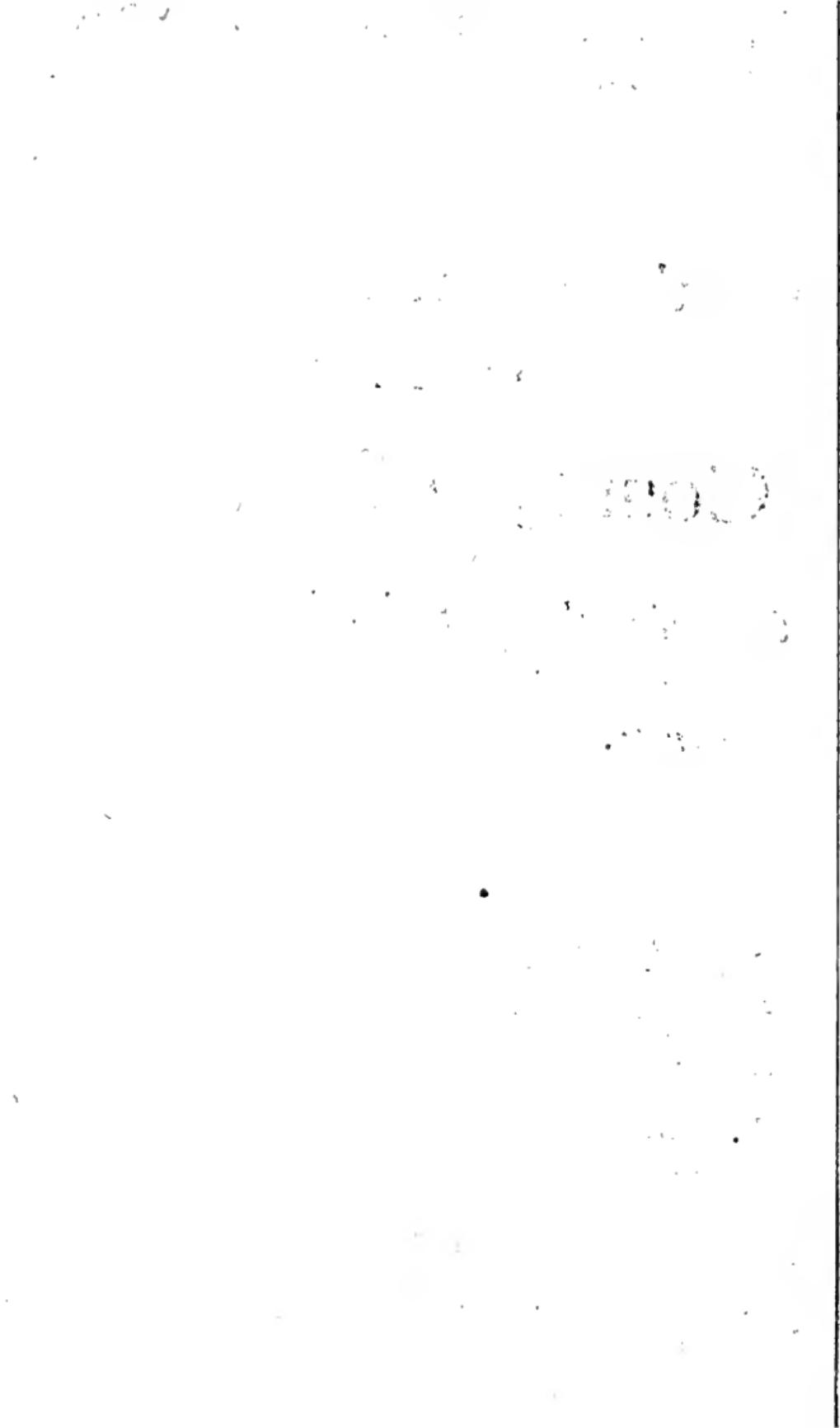
Liber est & stimandus, qui nulli turpitudini servit. Cic. in Pa. penult.

Servitus est Obedientia fracti animi, & abjecti, arbitrio carentis suo. Ibid.

Nulla servitus turpior est quam voluntaria. Sen. Ep. 47.

London,

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A

LETTER

TO THE

Gentlemen and Freeholders

OF THE

County of *Dorset*,

Concerning the next Election of Members of Parliament for the said County.

GENTLEMEN,

I hope there are none of you (at least but a few) but are sensible of the ill State of the British Nation at this time, how 'tis torn and rent into Factions by a Set of Men among

us, who pretend to be its best Friends, how that for some Years past, Notions have been instill'd into the Minds of People destructive of our Religion and Liberties ; and how the Persons, who teach and preach these Doctrines and Notions, have not been in the least wanting to propagate 'em with all imaginable Zeal and Industry. 'Twill be the Glory of this Age and Nation, to make a Peace with our Enemies the implacable Enemies of every-thing that's dear and valuable to us, as English-men and Christians ; so as to be able to transmit to latest Posterity the Blessings which we now in some measure enjoy.

'Tis the Interest of our Common Enemies, to keep up our Divisions among us ; and every one knows how much they have contributed towards it for a Century last past. We see they never regard Publick Faith any longer than 'tis for their own Interest to keep it, and when the Breach of it will do them any Service, they'll stick at nothing to pursue and accomplish their villainous Designs and Intentions.

The Crown of these Nations, &c., &c.,
veral very good Laws, settled and en-
tiled upon the most August and Il-
lustrious House of *Hanover*. After Her
Majesty's Decease, (whom Heaven continue
to us a long, long time) 'tis first to devolve
on the Princess *Sophia*; then after Her
Decease, on Her Son *George Lewis* the
present Elector, a Prince of great Virtues
and noble Qualifications, and to his Heirs
being Protestants.

'Tis this Settlement that is our grand Security ; 'tis this Succession after the Death of Her Present Majesty, that gives so good a Prospect to these Nations ; and I hope that there will not be wanting a Protestant Heir to sway the English Scepter, as long as the Sun and Moon endure. There is no Man that has a Love for his Country and for his Religion, but would sacrifice all he has, rather than this Settlement should not take Effect. If God does not by His Providence open the Eyes of some blinded and deluded People, he may for their Obstinacy and Perverseness, suffer all those glorious Schemes, which have been form'd for the Good of the Nation, to be overthrown and de-

reated ; some of which have been estab-
lished into a Law.

Every one knows, how the Interest of an abjured Popish Pretender has been diligently promoted by a sort of Men among us, who tells us of his renouncing the Errors of the Romish Religion, and how Protestant Jacobite Missionaries have actually brought him off from that Religion in which he was educated, who tell us 'tis very hard, he should suffer and lose his right for that which he could never help ; that 'tis contrary to the Laws of Nature, as well as the Laws of Revealed Religion : 'Tis easy to see through this horrid and monstrous piece of French Politicks ; for should he be ever once settled among us, 'tis no difficult matter to divine, where our Rights and Privileges are going. Popery and Tyranny swallow up all, and his Friends very well know, how ill it suits with the Genius and Temper of English-men and Protestants : An amphibious Constitution will never last long, a Popish Head and a Protestant Body make an odd sort of an Animal ;

Animal ; they are as disagreeable in their Nature as Light and Darkness.

The *Hanover* Succession is what every true English-man has nearest at heart ; and therefore all Persons who have a noble Zeal for their Country, and a Vote for Members of Parliament, ought in a particular manner to enquire into these things : Whether the Persons who they design shall represent them, have a real value for Her Majesty, and consequently for our Legal Constitution in Church and State ; Whether they are true Friends to the *Hanover* Succession ; Whether they are Men of a religious, sober Life and Conversation ; Whether they are Men moderate in their Principles, I mean such as are not for persecuting their Protestant Dissenting Brethren, but are for bringing them into the bosom of the Church by the mild and gentler Methods of Love and Charity, who have a value for their Persons, tho' they don't so much approve of their Separation ; Whether they are such as are for a Comprehension in Ecclesiastical Matters, if they find they are not able to effect their Return by the last

last mentioned Methods, and zealous for making a further Reformation in the Established Church, by abolishing some needless Rites and Ceremonies, which are still retained therein. In short, whether they are such, who have nothing more at heart than the Protestant Religion and the Liberties of *England*.

Whether they are willing to continue the Toleration as by Law Established, and that all Protestants should have Liberty to serve God in their own way according to their Consciences ; for 'tis the Prerogative of Heaven to search the Hearts and Consciences of Men, and the least Force or Restraint upon either, is the highest Violation of the Laws of God, and the utmost Contempt of his Authority that can be : I need not make a further Entry into these Enquiries, but leave every Man to think and enlarge on them as he pleases.

I don't pretend (Gentlemen) to direct you to the Persons, who in my Opinion are the truest Friends to the Nation, but to those, who you know are best qualified

fied and able to serve you in your truest Interest. There are many Gentlemen in your Country, of considerable Estates and Fortunes, in the World, who are every way qualified to serve you as your Representatives; and who every way answer the Enquiries aforesaid, Men of unblemished Characters and Reputation, who are Lovers of our Constitution, not any ways tainted with Republican Schemes or Antimonarchical Principles, no Atheistical Debauchees or Loose Livers.

Your County (proportionable to its Extent) sends as many Members to Parliament, as any in *England*, Twenty good Men will do you and the Nation no small Service; for methinks the Fate of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, nay of all *Europe*, seems to depend upon our next Parliament; We ought all to beseech Heaven that they may be Men of Moderation and Temper, such as study the Nation's best Interest, and will be indefatigable in the Prosecution of it.

That Poverty which is so visible throughout the Nation, is what every one will for the future endeavor to prevent; 'tis

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conspicuous enough that in many Places we are scarce able to maintain our own Poor, notwithstanding the many Attempts that have been made for their Relief by Parliament and Gifts of particular Persons, in erecting Schools, Hospitals, &c. This we hope will be taken into the Consideration of our next Parliament; and that some proper methods may be thought on for settling them in our Plantations abroad (or better employing them at home) where we have need both of Men and Women, particularly in *Newfoundland*, whereto the Trade of *Pool, Weymouth*, and other Places in your County, so much depends, and which we are in hopes of having entirely restored to us, at the Conclusion of the General Peace; nay, which we may safely rely on (if Her Majesty's Word may be taken) who hath assured us, that She had brought the King of *France* to consent to it; and consequently, we shall have greater need of sending Men thither, which is our best Nursery for good Seamen and Mariners.

We have been engaged in a long, bloody and expensive War, tho' very glorious and successful,

successful, till 'twas thought by some necessary to be put an end to by a Peace, which has not been a little while effecting. It has been thought, Her British Majesty would have made a Peace separate from the rest of Her Allies ; but as that has been endeavor'd to be prevented, by getting a reasonable Satisfaction to every one concerned in the War ; so I shall not believe any such thing as yet, for I can't think the Negotiations at *Utrecht* would have been so very long and tedious, had there not been such a Design in hand ; I shall not give you a particular Account of the Demands of the Confederates, every one knows they are now in no likelihood of being answered, and I can't but say 'tis a vile piece of Calumny and Slander some Persons have thrown on the late Ministry, as if their Designs were to have continued the War, in order to enrich and aggrandize themselves and their Families, and to have set up the Dutch, and made them as great as the French King now is, or is like to be ; I need not tell you how many Friends he has in this Nation, and how they have endeavor'd to bring his Actions into a good liking

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liking amongst the common People by representing them in false Lights and Colours, which have been vile and scandalous to the last degree.

I hope 'twill be your Care to prevent the Spreading and Growth of Popery as much as lies in your Power, which is the worst of Tyrannies. When once we are come to that Passiveness, that Pitch of Slavery, as to surrender our Souls and Consciences into the Hands of the Priests and Jesuits, those Missionaries of Hell, our Bodies will soon come into Subjection to them too; our Civil and Religious Rights go together; and those who have so long endeavor'd (but all in vain) to rob us of these Jewels, will be always diligent to compass their base and barbarous Ends: Let the methods they take for it be what they will, Popery is a spiritual Tyranny, a Burden which we nor our Fathers (by Experience) were ever able to bear; Popery is of an encroaching Nature, always impatient of the least Check or Restraint. The many Attempts that have been made to introduce it are well known, as well as the

the Divine Providence that has constantly delivered us. Queen *Mary's* Reign was nothing else but a Struggle with Providence, who suffered many glorious Martyrs to fall as a Prey into their Hands; by sealing the Protestant Cause with their Blood. The Cloud were dispersed in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* for some time; till they thicken'd again in 1588, when the invincible Armado, the greatest of all their Enterprizes, was prepared to sacrifice them all to Popish Rage and Fury, and that too in the most barbarous methods; but God was mightier than they, He commanded the Winds and Seas, and they fought against them; Heaven did not approve of their Undertaking. The Irish Massacre in 1641 is well known, and here Hell and Popery combined together, in a most extraordinary manner, to extirpate the Northern Heresy, as they call our Protestant Religion. Had this Attempt succeeded (which was bad enough as far as it did) it would have by far outdone any of the Ten Persecutions of old; their Inventions were on the Rack, to find out the most exquisite Tortures; and they would have throughly executed them, had not Heaven interposed in favor of the

the Professors of his true Religion, and no less to their Horror and Confusion.

In Two late Reigns Popery was openly professed and embraced, nay, had the Countenance of Authority, especially in the last of them ; for then it had its full Swing ; Popish Plots and Conspiracies in the first of them was very common ; their Missionaries were restless and impatient, they could not stay till the Prince should come to the Throne, who ever declared himself of that Religion, but must make Attempts against our Religion and Liberties in his Brother's Reign : At the Glorious Revolution, we were delivered by the mighty Hand of God ; for it could not be less when we consider, that God turned the Hearts and Minds of those who were the Patrons of such Doctrines, as would necessarily introduce the Popish Religion, and induced them almost to a Man to make a noble Stand in defence of what was most sacred to them, and which before they had made a Complement of to their Prince ; so that we find with these passive People Nature, will rebel against Principle, and

nd I believe 'twould upon a just Scrutiny appear, that these Men have practised Resistance oftener than those, whom they at other times condemn for it, when 'tis to save their very all. 'Tis well known what Conspiracies, Plots and Assassinations were intended, and carried on (so far, as that some of them justly suffered for them) against the Life of the Late Blessed King *William*, of Immortal and Glorious Memory : Here their Hopes were all blasted, and they find by fatal Experience, how unwilling we are to return to *Egypt*, tho' we so very much talk of it ; I believe 'tis not that pleasant and good Land some take it to be, 'tis now nothing but Desert and Blackness, a Place of Horror and Ignorance ; Popery has not been wanting (even in Her Majesty's Reign) to carry on her Desigus ; no, we have Priests and Jesuits almost in every Corner, and now we can't but think they will take new Life, and be not a little encreased when the F—— A——r has brought over with him such a Number of Tradesmen of all sorts, and no doubt Priests and Jesuits enough among 'em, for they well understand the Tricks of Trade,

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their Religion being nothing else ; what are their Doctrines of Transubstantiation Indulgences, Praying to Saints and Images, and many others ? but mere Juggle and Cheat : 'Tis nothing but a Design to keep the poor Laity ignorant, to make them believe they can do Miracles, &c. and to keep up their own Authority by aggrandizing the Power of their Church. This Gentleman will give you an Idea of Popery, and I hope you'll take care that your Representatives shall be such, as will oppose the Growth of it, and who are not of Lewd, Debauch'd, Atheistical Principles themselves, for those who have no value for your Religion, will have little or none for your Liberties and Properties.

Your Representatives ought to be such as dare not look to, or so much as think on, the Pretender, or have the least Hopes of his coming amongst us ; no ! they ought to be such, as will with their utmost Force, Interest and Power, oppose and resist him, when ever he, or Popery (which is the same thing) shall meditate a Return into these Nations. Will you,

you, Gentlemen, surrender your Rights, or suffer others to do it for you, for which many of your Fathers have spilt their Blood to preserve : What have we been fighting for these Twenty Years ? For my part I can't think it has been so much for Empire, as *pro aris & focis*, our Religion and Liberties ; for sure 'tis our Interest to defend them, when either of them are invaded, especially by so ambitious and perfidious a Neighbour, as the F—h K—g ; and depend on it whenever the Pretender shall come here, we shall soon see his Gratitude to the F—h K—g his Master, who has nursed him from a Child, and always supplied him and his Friends with every-thing, whenever they needed his Assistance. The Invasion in 1708, lets us see, that his Master would be at the Expence of a very great Fleet to do him Service ; and the continual Supplies and Allowances that are made him, shew that he is very careful of his Interest ; nay, who proclaim'd him in his own Dominions King *James* the Third, of *England*, &c. Will you receive an abjur'd Traitor, a convicted Criminal, a French Bully, one that woud

have as much value for your Rights, as his pretended Father, who, on all occasions, endeavor'd to deprive you of them. Pray Gentlemen consider what the Consequence of such a thing will be. I dare say, the British Crown will never fit easily on his Head.

They ought to be Men of a civiliz'd Character and Conversation, such as are no Drinkers to Excess, riotous Debouchees, who wont much mind the Business and arduous Affairs of the Nation, but will rather neglect them to prosecute their own sensual Pleasures and Delights : There ought to be nothing of pride and Haughtiness in their Natures ; neither should they be very young, unless you find them to be Men of Experience in the World ; they should be such as have had the Advantages of a good and learned Education, who will be able to assert your Rights, and know the Value of them : Youth and Ignorance very often meet together ; I deny not but there are some in your County (tho' young and but a few) who are very proper, and every way qualified to represent

present you in Parliament : But 'tis not always that old Heads grow on young Shoulders. You ought not to act so much from Party Interest, but should look to the Character of the Person ; not be so much sollicitous about what he'll do for you, what Gifts and Presents he'll make you, whether he'll promote the Trade of your County or any particular Town, but whether he's able and qualified to serve you in the House of Commons as a good Member. They should be convinced and sensible of the Goodness of our Constitution, which is a mixt Monarchy, the best Establishment in the World, wherein the Prince has Power enough to make himself happy, for nothing more is required of him, than the Governing his People according to the known Laws of the Land, and that he does not exact any thing from them without Law : 'Tis a Constitution that secures the Liberties of the Subject from the Invasions of the Prince, and when he resolves to engross all to himself, it allows his People a Power to secure themselves against all Encroachments whatsoever ; for an absolute Monarchy is

not only a Misfortune to the People, but to the Prince too ; acquaint yourselves with the Blessings of Liberty and the Miseries of Slavery, and the necessity of redressing your Grievances when they are invaded. And will you not endeavor, Gentlemen, to preserve so valuable a Blessing, that it may be handed down to latest Posterity ? For the true and solid Happiness of any govern'd Society, consists in the Enjoyment of their Rights, Liberties and Properties, together with the free Use of their Religion.

The very ingenious and polite Mr. *Addison* tells us in his Travels thro' *Italy*, that the Inhabitants of the Republick of *Lucca* have such generous Notions of Liberty, and are so captivated with its Charms and Advantages, as to write in Great Golden Letters upon that Gate, by which only, Strangers enter into the City, this Word *LIBERTAS*. They are, says Mr. *Addison*, a People very opulent, and no less happy in the Freedom of their Government, being every 2 Years put into different Hands ; they think
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one *Lucquese* is able to fight 5 *Florentines*, who live under the absolute Government of the Grand Duke ; who has often made Infringements upon their Liberties, and they have as often opposed him in the Preservation of them ; their Notions of Liberty are not so chimerical as some may think them ; for I think no People can have Notions of them great enough.

The Greatness of a Man's Estate should not in the least influence you in the Choice of him. If you are assured, that his Principles and Actions don't correspond with the Character he is to bear, as a Member, you should not elect him. He should be such as don't set up an Interest distinct from Trade, for I'm sure such an one is no ways proper to represent a Trading People. Trade is what we can't bear to hear run'd down by a Set of Men, who pretend to be of the Landed Interest. The chief Strength of our Nation consists in promoting our Trade at home, by encouraging our Manufactures : You must be all sensible, how our Cloathing Trade, especially in the

Western Counties, have decayed of late, we are strangely addicted to French Modes and Fashions, as well as to their Stuffs and Silks, I wish it don't end in a general Poverty ; Thousands of Families were maintained and supplied by the Cloathing Trade, who now can't get their Bread. Many Towns in your County, chiefly depended upon the said Trade, which is now entirely lost and gone from them.

The Case of the Nation is very desperate, and nothing less than Almighty God can save us, for we seem to be in imminent Dangers, the worst of Evils seem to hang over our Heads. We are peier'd with a young Herd of Factious, Debauched and Irreligious Clergy-men, who know little more of the Doctrines of the Christian Religion, than those that never heard of them ; some of them preach Doctrines which have no Foundation in Scripture, which is a certain sign they little understand them. For what means the Doctrine of Remission of Sins, or that the Priest has an Authoritative Power to absolve a Man from his Sins. Is not this Assertion gross Superstition ? Is such

such an Absolution of the least Efficacy for
the Pardon of Sin ? What mean the Do-
ctrines of the propitiatory Sacrifice of the Eu-
charist in the Sacrament ; Of the Invalidity
of Lay-baptism ; whereby they teach,
that none have Power to baptize, but
such as are Episcopally ordained ; and
consequently, that all the foreign Prote-
stant Churches are not a Part of the Chri-
stian Church, no better than Heathens being
not entituled to the Mercy of God to save
them ; nay, they think the Case of the
Heathens much better than theirs, be-
cause the latter obstinately resist the Truth :
how hazardous, say they, is the Salva-
tion of our Dissenters and the foreign
Protestants, they doubt of it as almost
impossible ; what, I say, means this un-
churching Doctrine, is it the Temper
of their Master ? What means the
Doctrines of Passive Obedience and
Non-resistance, and Indefeasible, Un-
alienable, Hereditary and Divine Right,
and the inculcating of them so warmly
as they do, and the Condemning the Re-
volution, which was brought about and
effected by the means of that Resistance
which they condemn : Why do Parties
at present run so very high ? why was
the

the Occasional Bill so suddenly past? why was it gilded with so specious a Title? was it not to betray us and our Liberties? Why do they so industriously endeavor to blacken the late Ministry, and extol the present? Why has that great Hero the D— of M——, that glorious and successful General, been so abused and meanly treated among us of late? Don't some People endeavor to perswade the World that he has cheated the Government of a great Sum of Money? Have they proved it upon him? and many others whom they charge with the same Crime; Can any thing be more arbitrary than this? A Min is no sooner accused, but he is found guilty without hearing his Defence. *Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro ratione Voluntas* is applicable enough to the present Case. Have not some gone so far, particularly *Lesly*, as to write for an Union between us and the Gallican Popish Churches? Won't this prepare a way for our Reception of Popery? They don't cry out that their Holy Mother, the Church, is in danger for nothing; they don't say 'tis in danger from the Papists, no, they think them their very good Friends, 'tis from Schismaticks and Low-church-men.

Surely

Surely this can mean nothing less than a Return to the worst of all Religions, Popery ; which is made up of Tyranny, Cruelty and Oppression, the worst of Evils. God preserve our Protestant Religion, our dear Liberties, and let us all endeavor to study such Methods as shall make for Peace, and which may terminate in the general Good of the Nation, and prevent the Designs of its malignant Enemies.

I beseech you, Gentlemen, lay these things near your Hearts, consider of them with the greatest Calmness and Impartiality, be convinced of the Necessity of Reforming your Lives and Manners, that God may not with-hold his Blessings from us, but may shew'r down upon us the best of earthly Blessings, and that we may enjoy and reap the Fruits of a good, secure, safe and honourable Peace. For Security is the very Soul of Peace. Let us endeavor to lay aside all Parties and Distinctions among us, and study every thing that may make us a flourishing People, and an happy Nation : Let us be careful to preserve the Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of *England* from all Corruption

ruption and Invasion whatsoever ; then, and not before, will our Nation be happy at home, and envied abroad by those that have lost their Liberties. *Sweden*, *Denmark*, and other Nations have lost and been cheated out of their Liberties by the Tricks and Juggles of their Clergy, who taught for Doctrines their own Commandments, and such as I above-hinted at. They have now lost what we glory in, and what we at present enjoy, and I hope ever shall.

The General Method of Enquiry about Members for Parliament is, whether they are Whigs or Tories ; the Principles of the former are, what every good Englishman should possess himself with. They are Lovers of our Church and Constitution, are ready at all times, and on all occasions, to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes in defence of either ; they are Men moderate in their Opinions about lesser Matters in Religion, are not of a persecuting cruel Spirit ; nor are they for anathemizing and damning all that dissent from them ; They have a Love and Value for the learned, sober, religious and moderate

moderate part of the Clergy, have a great Respect for Her Majesty, and no less Reverence for Her good Bishops ; In short, they are what every good Man ought to be. Now a Tory in many Respects is the very Reverse of him ; their Value for the Clergy lasts no longer than they can make them their Tools ; in short, they pretend to a great many things, and look on themselves as the Patrons of Truth and Justice, but practise little of either ; they will confute a Man with Noise and Number, I deny not but there are some good honest Men amongst the Tories, and believe they are wofully misled by their Party, and who are not let into all their secret Designs, neither would I pretend to justify every Whig : There are bad and designing Men of every Party ; but you, Gentlemen, will not be deceived in your Choice ; I hope 'twill be your Care to exert your utmost Force and Strength, mistake me not, I would not have any Man elected by Bribes and Villany ; no, if the Tories or any others do it, let them not be a Precedent to you.

There

dies, (which supplies the Luxury and Prodigality of all *Europe*) added to him. His prodigious Encroachments and Villanies ever since he came to the Throne, ought to engage every English-man to promote and study the things that may render the British Nation secure and happy ; 'tis also almost incredible to think, tho' true, what he has got by Conquests and Victories, and by Treaties. There are few Sovereign Princes in the World, but he has got some Advantage, Place, or Country from by those means, which have been fresh Accessions and Additions to his Power and Glory. Should we not therefore, as Britons, guard our selves against so potent an Enemy ? Can we be too careful in securing our selves for the future, or be too jealous of so perfidious a Person ? How can Protestants deal with Papists, who follow and practise this grand Maxim in all their Affairs, *That 'tis lawful and just for Catholicks to break Faith with Heretics* ? Have not this Tyrant's Actions been, and will they not be, infamous to latest Posterity ? If any thing make him immortal, it must be his vile Actions. But notwithstanding his Immortalization, the

the Glories, the Successes, the Grandure
of his Reign, 'tis to be feared he'll be the
more miserable hereafter ; He may be
said to have had his good things in this
life, and 'twould be well for him, that
there was no such thing as another Life :
or tho' Papists deny Salvation to Prote-
stants, yet they have more Charity, they
believe many amongst them may be saved ;
but the Case of the French King, the Ty-
rant and Oppressor of this Age, is very
dangerous,desperate and hazardous.*Austria* is
no way equal to him in any Respect,
nay the whole Confederacy is scarce able
to deal with him. But notwithstanding
the vast Expence of the War, we find
how extravagant he has been of his Mo-
ney in unnecessary Donations and Expences,
witness his sumptuous Buildings, the vast
Pensions he gave to his Friends and Favorites
both at home and abroad, his lavish Gifts
to Whores and Pandors,particularly *Mainte-*
non, for whom such great things have
been done by him in *Languedoc*, even
so much as would have maintained his
Fleets and Armies a great while. Who
then is able to oppose and restrain this great
Man ? Can *Austria* do it ? no. Is not the
Power of that House much decayed, and

its Revenues decreased since *Charles Vth's* time ; they will now lose *Spain* and the *West Indies*, their Right-hand as it were, by the ensuing Peace to which they had an undoubted Right. How then will the Balance of Power be kept up and maintain'd ? For my part I can't reconcile the Inconsistency : Therefore 'tis the Interest of *England* and *Holland* at this time, to get what they can for the Empire from *France*. It has been computed, that *France* maintains in full Peace 200000 Men, in War 350000, the present Emperor has in Pay 135000 effective Men, but not half of them are employed against *France* ; *Austria's* utmost Efforts could never exceed 200000 : But what Proportion is there between 200000 dispersed throughout *Europe* and 350000 collected and kept together in the Kingdom of *France*. Where then's the extravagant and overgrown Power of the House of *Austria* against whom we must take such Precautions ; but 'tis too late to say any thing as to that matter now, it being very effectually prevented already. *France* can raise 100 Millions per Annum, *Spain* 36, whereas *Germany* can raise but 40 Millions ; how then is *Germany* like to over-ballance *France* and *Spain*, when their Revenues, and consequently,

ciently, the Number of their Troops, are far superior: Therefore *France* being great and powerful, *England* can't be so much upon her Guard, She can never be too secure; our Laws and Liberties won't preserve us from ruin, when we are attack'd by such superior Force, as we shall not be able to resist. How should *England*, *Holland*, *Germany*, and the other Confederates be ready at all times, upon very good and just occasion, to help and assist one another. Self-preservation is one of the prime Laws of Nature, for *Salus Populi* is, and I hope will always be *suprema Lex*. I thought I could not do better (Gentlemen) than to set you right in a thing of that Moment and Concern as this is; *France* can scarce be weaken'd, nor the Confederates strengthen'd too much; and I hope a time will come, when they will really be so. Your Representatives should know this Affair throughly; 'tis not every one that knows when there's a real Ballance of Power in *Europe*. And I hope they'll consider, when we have such a Ballance in *Europe*, what Methods are most proper to preserve it. I beg pardon of the Reader for this Digression from my Design, but I hope 'twill undeceive

those who think so favorably of the French King's Strength and Power.

The present Parliament has sate Two Sessions already, and a good part of the time for the third Session is spent, so that 'tis not yet known how soon another Parliament may be called, or whether the present will be dissolved or not, but whenever it shall be called, you'll find that they'll not have a little Business upon their Hands ; therefore it deserves your utmost Care to send such Men to Parliament, as will be capable to do that Business well. This Letter is not so much to tell you your Duty, as to remind you of the Greatness of the Concern ; and sending it you so soon, I hope won't be ways unseasonable.

It may be enquired by some, why I should write this Letter to the Gentlemen and Freeholders of Dorsetshire, before the present Parliament is dissolved ; I answer, that a Man can't do a more generous Action, than to promote the Good and Welfare of his Country at all times, than which I have no other Intention : I am sensible we can't be too zealous and hearty in so good a Cause ; It shews a noble Roman Spirit, who would rather

rather sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes, than live under Slavery and Oppression, the vilest and most miserable Existence in the World ; 'tis really better to have none at all, than one that's so abominably base and scandalous. It betrays a Meanness of Spirit, a Littleness of Soul, for brave Men to be easy, quiet and content under the most vile and abject Slavery : I beseech you, Gentlemen, consider with Calmness of these things ; your Cause will admit of no Indifference of Temper, you must stand or fall by the next Parliament ; therefore I hope this may help to inspire you with a true Zeal for your Country's Good, you can't lay out your Strength and Money in a better Cause ; 'twill make Posterity speak well of you, and mention your Names with Honour ; the Inhabitants of *Dorsetshire* have felt the Lashes of a Popish Tyrant already, they were then passing thro' the fiery Tryal, but their Comfort was, that they fell as Martyrs, they suffered in the most glorious Cause, I mean in the Cause of Religion and Liberty ; but how strangely alter'd and infatuated is this Nation of late, what's more common than drinking an abjur'd Pretender's Health, a traiterous

terous Outlaw ? How has Her Majesty
of late been troubled with abundance of
Jacobite Addresses from most parts of Her
Dominions, stuff'd with indefeasible heredi-
tary Right, calling the Resistance at the Revo-
lution, Rebellion ; and consequently, the late
and present Reign a successive Usurpation,
and pointing to St. *Germain*s in favor of the
Pretender : The *Dublin* Address says, that
Revolution Principles by some Men are
propagated very industriously destructive
of Religion, Loyalty and Government :
This is publickly declaring for the *Che-
valier* t'other side the Water ; 'tis a direct
Invitation to him, and what's more strange,
Abel and the *Gazette* tell us these Ad-
dresses are received very graciously, and
the Presenters of 'em are introduced to Her
Majesty by My Lord O——d, B——l——ke
and others, this really gives us some oc-
casion of Suspicion ; I need not mention
how contemptibly our good Bishops are used
by some Men both by speaking, and writ-
ing, how our late General is insulted by
the meanest Tools, the prostituted Pens of
the *Examiner* and *Abel* ; Popish Priests and
Jesuits that swarm among us, are not taken no-
tice of by them, we long and wait for a Refor-
mation both of Mind and Manners ; and
t'were

'twere to be wished, our Magistrates were more careful in the Observation of their Oaths, and more impartial and studious to put our good Laws in Execution against them: The Licentiousness of the Age ought to be bewailed by every good Man more than it is. This certainly presages the Nation's Ruin and Destruction; it paves the Way for Popery and the Pretender, tho' a good Parliament, may, and I hope will, retrieve the Glory and Honour of the British Nation, and save us from Ruin.

I have endeavor'd to write this Letter with that becoming Zeal, which the Importance of the thing required; and this I can't but mention before I conclude it, that 'twere to be wished due elected Members might have more Justice done them in the House as well as in the Field, for the Partiality of both is very great, and no less unjust. I hope this will be useful to others (tho' not of your County) who will give themselves the Trouble and Cost to read it: For all *England* will be involved in the General Calamity when-ever it shall happen, if it be not happily prevented by the Unanimity and Zeal of the Electors in every *County, City and Borough*. Let not

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the Influence and Threats of great Men in Power by ass you in your Choice, but stand firm and steady to so good, so just, and so honest a Cause; maugre all the wicked Attempts and Designs of bad Men, who under a pretence of being the Nation's Friends and Preservers, do all they can to ruin it, and rob us of what's most dear and valuable to us. I could say a great deal more, but I hope you have not need to be informed in a matter that so nearly concerns you; I would therefore only recommend to your Consideration, the Greatness of that Concern and Work, which must shortly lie on your Hands, as I hope it does on your Hearts. I beg you, Gentlemen, to acquit yourselves herein like free-born Englishmen, and as every good Briton ought to do: And then your Care and Pains will be fully answered and recompensed; for certainly the Enjoyment and Preservation of your Legal Rights, Liberties and Fortunes, together with that most inestimable Jewel, the Protestant Religion, to latest Posterity, will fully do it. Which that we may be able to do, is the earnest Desire, and shall be the utmost Endeavor of,

Gentlemen, Your most Obedient Servant and Country-man;
and a Lover of our Constitution in Church and State,

E. C.

